

From [Jim and Linda <reinhart@xyz.net>](mailto:reinhart@xyz.net)



Sent Wednesday, June 16, 2004 10:52 am

To [Local Boundry Commission <lbc@dced.state.ak.us>](mailto:lbc@dced.state.ak.us)

Cc

Bcc

Subject Homer Annexation Remand

Attachments [KESA letter to LBC.doc](#)

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Dear LBC members,

My name is Jim Reinhart. I first came to Alaska in 1954 at the request of Uncle Sam. I and my family have lived in the Homer area since 1969. I recognized early on that lives and property in the rural areas of the southern Kenai Peninsula were at substantial fire risk because fire fighting personnel and equipment could not respond to a fire in time to prevent loss. Very often by the time fire departments arrived it was too late. No matter how determined the response, the distance and road conditions did not allow prompt , effective fire protection. I believe Homer Volunteer Fire Department has acknowledged this many times in the past.

For this and other reasons, I became quite active in promoting the vote which authorized the creation of Kachemak Emergency Service Area and in making KESA a viable entity. As you know, the citizens voted to establish KESA by a landslide majority. I believe that the city of Homer attempted to thwart the self-help efforts of the rural residents in this area by removing as much of the tax base as they could from KESA.

On the evening of February 14, 2000, the home of my daughter and son-in-law experienced a fire in the roof between the upstairs sheetrock and the outside roof. This fire was caused by a flaw in a metalbestos pipe ? a flaw not detected by a chimney inspection just a week earlier. We called Homer VFD and neighbors. In an heroic effort with hand held fire extinguishers and water hoses, family and neighbors held the fire at bay until HVFD arrived. Fortunately, HVFD was gathered at the Kachemak City fire hall for a joint meeting when our call for help came to them. This resulted in a much faster response. We were out of fire extinguishers and would likely have lost the house to the fire shortly. The rural residents of this area need KESA to be funded , not confounded.

Jim Reinhart, Box 834, Homer, AK 235-8650

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